

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated January 10, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-19, 21-24, 27-30 and 32 are pending. Claims 1 and 20 are cancelled above. Claims 2, 4, 11, 12, 21 and 24 are amended above. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claims 1-4 and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent No. 5,491,409 (Flora), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,248 (Hedengren). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Flora, in view of Hedengren, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,150,809 (Tiernan). The Examiner indicated that Claims 20-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 6-10, 15-19, 24, 27-30 and 32 have been allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the claims.

1. Claims 2-11:

The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-10 are allowable. Claim 1 has been cancelled and Claims 2, 4 and 11 have been amended to depend from Claim 6. After entry of the amendments Claims 2-5 and 7-11 depend from Claim 6. In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 2-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 2-5 and 11 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

2. Claims 15-19

The Examiner indicated that Claims 15-19 are allowable.

3. Claims 12-14 and 21-23

The Examiner indicated that original Claims 20-23 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 12 has been amended to include the additional recitation of original Claim 20. Claim 20 has been cancelled, and Claim 21 has been amended to depend from Claim 12. Claims 13, 14, 21, 22 and 23 depend from Claim 12. In view of the above,

Applicants submit that Claims 12-14 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 12-14 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

4. Claims 24, 27-30 and 32:

The Examiner indicated that Claims 24, 27-30 and 32 are allowable. Claim 24 is amended above to correct an informality.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, namely Claims 2-19, 21-24, 27-30 and 32, are allowable over the cited art.

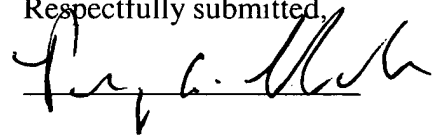
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Amendment and any other fees applicable to this application to the Assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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